By Morh

SB. No. 368

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a Pressure Vessel Division in the

Texas Department of Labor and Standards and the Advisory Board

of Pressure Vessel Rules and defining their duties and

responsibilities; requiring that certain pressure vessels meet

certain standards; providing penalties; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the

Pressure Vessel Act.

- Sec. 2. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Act:
- (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Texas

 Department of Labor and Standards.
- (2) "Board" means the Advisory Board of Pressure Vessel Rules.
- (3) "Director" means the Director of the Pressure Vessels Division of the Texas Department of Labor and Standards.
- (4) "Deputy inspector" means an inspector of boilers and pressure vessels appointed by the commissioner.
- (5) "Authorized inspector" means an inspector of boilers and pressure vessels holding a Texas commission issued by the commissioner and regularly employed by a company licensed to insure pressure vessels in this state.
- (6) "Special inspector" means an inspector holding a Texas certificate of competency issued by the commissioner and

64R759 JMC-F

continuously employed by an owner or user operating pressure vessels in this state for which the owner or user maintains a regularly established owner-user inspection service pursuant to this Act.

- (7) "Inspector" means the director, a deputy inspector, an authorized inspector, or a special inspector.
- (8) "Owner or user" means any person, firm, or corporation owning, operating, in charge of, or in control of a pressure vessel in this state.
- (9) "Owner-user inspection service" means a self-inspection program meeting the requirements of this Act maintained by an owner or user.
- (10) "ASME Code" means the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code with revisions, amendments, and interpretations adopted by the council of the society and adopted by the board.
- (11) "National board" means the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.
- (12) "Operating limits" means the acceptable limits of pressure and temperature promulgated by the board.
- (13) "Pressure vessel" means any vessel in which the pressure is obtained from an external source or by the application of heat.
- (14) "Certificate inspection" means the inspection used by the director in deciding whether or not to issue a certificate of operation.
 - (15) "Special inspection" means any inspection performed

64R759 JMC-F

by the director or any deputy inspector other than the inspection reguired by Section 16 of this Act.

- (16) "Certificate of Operation" means a certificate issued by the director for the operation of a pressure vessel.
- Sec. 3. BOARD OF PRESSURE VESSEL RULES. (a) There is established within the Texas Department of Labor and Standards the Advisory Board of Pressure Vessel Rules, consisting of nine members appointed by the commissioner. Except for the initial appointees, members hold office for terms of six years expiring on January 31 of odd—numbered years. In making the initial appointments, the commissioner shall designate three for terms expiring in 1977, three for terms expiring in 1979, and three for terms expiring in 1977, three for terms expiring in 1979, and three for terms expiring in 1981.
- (b) The commissioner may remove any member of the Board for inefficiency or neglect of duty in office. On the death or incapacity of any member, the commissioner shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the vacated term with an individual representative of the same interests with which his predecessor was identified.
- and at least three must be registered professional engineers
 licensed in this state. Three members must be representatives
 of owner or users, two must be representatives of pressure vessel
 manufacturers, two must be representatives of companies insuring
 boilers and pressure vessels in this state, one must be a
 mechanical engineer on the faculty of a recognized engineering
 college in the state, and one must be a representative of a labor

union.

- (d) The commissioner shall be an ex officio member of the board and shall serve as chairman. At the call of the chairman, the board shall meet at least four times each year at a place designated by the board. No decision of the board shall be effective unless supported by the vote of at least five members.
- (e) The board members serve without salary, but are entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as board members.
- Sec. 4. RULES AND REGULATIONS. (a) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations for safe construction, installation, operating limits, alteration, and repair of pressure vessels in this state and for inspections necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- (b) The rules and regulations for new construction and installation shall follow generally accepted engineering standards, formulas, and practices pertaining to pressure vessel construction and safety. The board may adopt the ASME Code as part of the rules and regulations.
- (c) The rules and regulations for pressure vessels in operation before the effective date of the initial rules and regulations shall follow generally accepted engineering standards, formulas, and practices and may be based on the National Board Inspection Code.
- (d) The board shall conduct a hearing on all promulgated rules and regulations. The time, place, and matters to be considered at the hearing shall be posted for 20 days preceding

64R759 JMC-F

the hearing in a manner designed to give actual notice. All persons directly affected shall be mailed a notice at least 20 days prior to the hearing. Notice shall also be published in a Texas newspaper of general publication 28 days before the hearing.

- (e) After the board's hearing, the commissioner may approve the promulgated rules and regulations and cause the approved rules and regulations to be published. Except for the rules and regulations concerning construction specifications and the intitial rules and regulations, rules and regulations shall be effective upon publication. All rules and regulations concerning construction specifications may not be effective until 12 months after the date of publication of the rules.
- (f) With the commissioner's approval, the board may set an effective date for amendments of the rules and regulations, provided the effective date is not more than 12 months from the date of publication of the amendments.
- Sec. 5. PROCEDURE FOR MODIFICATION OR VARIATION. (a) Any person aggrieved by a rule, regulation, or decision of the board may notify the board of the grievance in writing; the board shall consider the grievance and may amend or repeal the rule, regulation, or decision on its own motion. If the board fails to amend or repeal the rule, regulation, or decision within 10 days of the written notice of grievance, the aggrieved party may file a written application for a hearing. The board shall conduct a hearing within 10 days after receipt of the application. At the hearing, the aggrieved party shall have the opportunity to show cause for the amendment or repeal of the rule, regulation,

or decision.

- (b) On failure of the board to amend or repeal the rule, regulation, or decision, the aggrieved person may file a petition to review, set aside, modify, or suspend the action of the board within 30 days of the date of the board hearing. The suit may be brought in the district court of the county in which the vessel is located or in the district court of Travis County.
- (c) Any owner or user may request a variation from a rule, regulation, or decision. The request for variation shall be in writing and shall specify how the variation is as safe as the rule, regulation, or decision. The board, after investigation and a hearing, if deemed necessary, may grant a variation from the terms of any rule, regulation, or decision, provided any special conditions specified are maintained to provide safety.
- Sec. 6. PRESSURE VESSEL INSTALLATION. (a) The initial rules and regulations concerning construction and installation shall not become effective until 12 months after the date of publication.
- (b) All pressure vessels contracted for before the publication date of the board's initial rules and regulations or constructed, installed, or placed in operation before the effective date of the initial rules shall conform to the rules and regulations for installations in existence before the publication date.
- (c) A pressure vessel described in Subsection (b) of this section may be used or reinstalled if it conforms with the rules and regulations governing existing pressure vessels providing it

has been thoroughly inspected and found to be in a safe condition.

- (d) The pressure vessel described in Subsection (b) of this section may be sold. However, the new owner must conform with the board's rules and regulations on secondhand vessels.
- (e) The board may grant a special installation and operating permit for a pressure vessel of special design or construction if the design or construction is safe.
- Sec. 7. EXEMPTIONS. The provisions of this Act do not apply to:
- (1) pressure vessels owned or operated by the United States government;
- (2) pressure vessels used for the transportation and storage of compressed or liquefied gases if constructed and operated in compliance with specifications and regulations of the United States Department of Transportation;
- (3) pressure vessels located on vehicles operating pursuant to regulations of other state authorities, and used for carrying passengers or freight;
- (4) pressure vessels installed on the rights-of-way of railroads and used directly in the operation of trains;
- (5) pressure vessels having an internal or external operating pressure not exceeding 15 PSIG with no limit on size;
- (6) pressure vessels with a nominal water-containing capacity of 120 gallons or less for containing water under pressure, including those containing air, the compression of which serves only as a cushion;
 - (7) pressure vessels containing water heated by steam or

64R759 JMC-F

any other indirect means when none of the following limitations 1 2 are exceeded: 3 (A) a heat input of 200,000 BTU per hour; (B) a water temperature of 200°F; 5 (C) a nominal water-containing capacity of 120 gallons; 6 (8) pressure vessels that do not exceed: 7 (A) five cubic feet in volume and 250 PSIG pressure; or 8 (B) one and one-half cubic feet in volume and 600 PSIG 9 pressure; or (C) an inside diameter of six inches with no limitation 10 11 on pressure; 12 (9) pressure vessels which are under the regulation and 13 control of the Texas Railroad Commission; 14 (10) piping and pipelines; (11) fired process tubular heaters and furnaces; 15 (12) pressure vessels covered by Chapter 436, Acts of the 16 17 45th Legislature, Regular Session, 1937, as amended (Article 5221c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes); 18 (13) pressure vessels in buildings occupied solely for 19 20 residence purposes with accommodations for not more than four 21 families; 22 (14) pressure vessels located on farms and used exclusively for agricultural purposes; 23 (15) pressure vessels in use solely by and in the care, 24 25 custody, and control of research facilities for research that will result in the destruction of the vessel; 26

64R759 JMC-F

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(16) any pressure vessel used as an integral part of an

electrical circuit breaker or transformer; or

- (17) mechanical equipment other than pressure vessels.
- Sec. 8. EXEMPTION FROM PERIODIC INSPECTION. (a) The provisions of this Act requiring periodic inspection do not apply to the following:
- (1) pressure vessels on remote oil— and gas-producing lease locations that have fewer than ten buildings intended for human occupancy per .25 square miles and the closest building is 220 yards from the vessels;
- (2) pressure vessels in anhydrous ammonia service in the possession of distributors exclusively used for agricultural purposes; or
- (3) pressure vessels between 5 and 15 cubic feet in volume and 250 PSIG pressure used as air receivers in industrial establishments.
- (b) The director may require a special inspection of any pressure vessel covered by this section if he has cause to believe the vessel does not meet the requirements of this Act or the board's rules and regulations.
- Sec. 9. DIRECTOR. (a) The commissioner shall appoint as director a citizen of this state, or if not available, a citizen of another state, who (i) has at the time of the appointment not less than 10 years experience in the construction, installation, inspection, operation, maintenance, or repair of pressure vessels as a mechanical engineer or pressure vessel inspector, and (ii) has passed the type of examination described in Section 13 of this Act. The director may be removed for cause after

investigation by the board, the board's recommendation of removal, and approval by the commissioner.

(b) The director shall:

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- (1) take action necessary for the enforcement of this Act;
- (2) keep a complete record of the name of each owner or user, and his location and, except for owner-user inspection service vessels, the type, dimensions, maximum allowable working pressure, age, and date of the last recorded inspection of all pressure vessels to which this Act applies;
- (3) publish and upon application make available copies of the board's rules and regulations;
- (4) issue, suspend, or revoke for cause a certificate of operation;
- (5) cause the prosecution of violators of the provisions of this Act; and
- (6) from the money appropriated by the legislature pay the expenses authorized by this Act including the maintenance expenses of the director's office and traveling expenses of the director and his deputies.
- Sec. 10. DEPUTY INSPECTORS. The commissioner shall appoint deputy inspectors to be responsible to the director. They shall pass the examination described in Section 13 of this Act, be at least 25 years of age, and have education and experience equal to at least one of the following:
- (i) a degree in mechanical engineering plus one year of experience in the design, construction, operation, or inspection of high pressure boilers and pressure vessels;

64R759 JMC-F

- (2) a degree in a branch of engineering other than mechanical engineering plus two years of experience in design, construction, operation, or inspection of high pressure boilers and pressure vessels; or
- (3) the equivalent of a high school education plus three years of experience:
- (A) in high pressure boiler and pressure vessel construction or repair;
- (B) as an operating engineer in charge of high pressure boiler operation; or
- (C) as an inspector of high pressure boilers and pressure vessels.
- Sec. 11. AUTHORIZED INSPECTORS. (a) The commissioner shall, upon the request of any company licensed to insure boilers and pressure vessels in this state, issue to an inspector of the company a commission as an authorized inspector, if the inspector passes the examination described in Section 13 of this Act or holds a commission as an inspector of boilers and pressure vessels issued by the national board.
- (b) An authorized inspector may not receive a salary from or have any of his expenses paid by the state.
- (c) The continuance of an authorized inspector's commission is conditioned upon his continuing in the employ of a company licensed to insure boilers and pressure vessels in this state.
- Sec. 12. SPECIAL INSPECTORS. (a) The director shall issue a certificate of competency as a special inspector to an inspector employed by an owner or user which:

64R759 JMC-F

(1) requests the issuance,

- (2) operates pressure vessels in this state,
- (3) maintains a regularly established inspection service under the supervision of one or more individuals whose qualifications are satisfactory to the board, and
- (4) causes the preseure vessels to be inspected and rated by the inspection procedure in accordance with the board's rules and regulations.
- (b) Before receiving the certificate of competency, the inspector shall:
- (1) be certified in accordance with Subsection (e) of this section and Section 13 of this Act,
 - (2) be continuously employed by the owner or user, and
- (3) be responsible for the inspections of pressure vessels not for resale, and used, or to be used, by the owner or user.
- (c) A special inspector may not receive any salary from, or have any of his expenses paid by the state.
- (d) The continuance of a special inspector's certificate of competency is conditioned upon his continuing in the employ of the owner or user operating pressure vessels in this state and upon his maintenance of the standards imposed by this Act.
- (e) The board's rules and regulations shall govern the certification of the applicant and issuance of a certificate of competency as a special inspector.
- Sec. 13. EXAMINATION. Examinations for director and deputy, authorized or special inspectors shall be in writing and held by the board. At least two members of the board must be present at

64R759 JMC-F

all times during the examination. The examination shall be confined to areas of competency necessary for the specified position and be prepared in accordance with the board's rules and regulations. If an applicant for an inspector's commission or certificate of competency fails to pass the examination, he may appeal to the board for another examination which shall be given by the board within 90 days. The record of an applicant's examination shall be accessible to the applicant and his employers.

Sec. 14. SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF COMMISSION OR CERTIFICATE OF COMPENTENCY. (a) After investigation and recommendation by the board, an inspector's commission or certificate of competency may be suspended by the director for incompetence, untrustworthiness, or willful falsification in the inspector's application or in an inspection report made by him. Written notice of any suspension shall be given by the director within 10 days to the inspector and his employer. A person whose commission or certificate of competency has been suspended is entitled to an appeal to the board and to be present in person and may be represented by counsel at the appeal hearing.

(b) If the board has reason to believe that an inspector is no longer qualified to hold his commission or certificate of competency, the board shall hold a hearing after having given written notice to the inspector and his employer at least 10 days prior to the hearing. The inspector and his employer shall have an opportunity to speak at the hearing. If the board finds that the inspector is not qualified to hold his commission or certificate of competency, the board shall recommend to the

commissioner that the commission or certificate of competency be revoked, the commissioner may revoke the commission or certificate of competency.

(c) A person whose commission or certificate of competency has been suspended is entitled to apply for reinstatement of the commission or certificate of competency 90 days after the date of the suspension.

Sec. 15. REPLACEMENT AND RENEWAL OF COMMISSION OR

CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY. (a) If a commission or certificate

of competency is lost or destroyed, a new commission or certificate

shall be issued in its place without another examination.

(b) Renewal of a commission or certificate of competency is required in December of each year, at which time a new identifying card will be issued.

Sec. 16. INSPECTION OF PRESSURE VESSELS. (a) All new pressure vessels covered by this Act shall be inspected during construction by either an inspector authorized to inspect pressure vessels in a state which has a standard of examination substantially equal to that of this state, an inspector holding a commission issued by the national board, or an authorized user inspector as provided by the ASME Code. After inspection, all new pressure vessels shall be registered or reported to the director as follows:

- (1) Owner-user inspection service vessels shall be reported pursuant to Section 20 of the Act.
- (2) Vessels qualified to be stamped "National Board" shall be registered through the national board.

- (3) Other vessels shall be registered directly with the director by the owner or user.
- regulations, each pressure vessel covered by this Act shall be given an inspection at intervals to decide whether or not a certificate of operation may be issued. A certificate of operation is not required for owner-user inspection service vessels.

 Pressure vessels shall be given a certificate inspection biennially unless the owner or user maintains a regularly established owner-user inspection service under the supervision of one or more individuals whose qualifications are satisfactory to the board and the owner or user causes the pressure vessels to be inspected by special inspectors in accordance with the board's rules and regulations.
- (c) Except for owner-user inspection service vessels, a pressure vessel relocated from an existing setting shall be given a certificate inspection before it is returned to service.
- (d) Nuclear vessels within the scope of the Act shall be inspected and reported in such form and with such appropriate information as the board requires.
- (e) The director or a deputy inspector designated by the director shall have access during reasonable hours to any premises in the state where a pressure vessel is being constructed, altered or repaired, for use in or is being installed in this state for the purpose of ascertaining whether the pressure vessel is being constructed, installed, altered or repaired in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the board's rules and regulations.

Any authorized inspector employed by a company insuring pressure vessels on the premises shall also have access to the premises during reasonable hours to inspect the vessel.

(f) The board may permit longer periods between certificate inspections and may permit variations in inspection requirements.

Sec. 17. PROHIBITION AGAINST OPERATION OF PRESSURE VESSEL WITHOUT CERTIFICATE OF OPERATION. No pressure vessel covered by this Act may be operated within this state unless the pressure vessel has been recorded with the Pressure Vessel Division of the Texas Department of Labor and Standards and has been issued a certificate of operation for the vessel or unless the owner or user of the pressure vessel has complied with Sections 16 and 20 of this Act. The certificate of operation remains in effect until it expires or is canceled for cause by the commissioner.

Sec. 18. INJUNCTION AGAINST OPERATION OF UNSAFE PRESSURE VESSELS. (a) If upon inspection, a vessel fails to meet the requirements of this Act or the board's rules and regulations, and the owner or user refuses to make suitable repairs or additions to pass a subsequent inspection, the commissioner or the director shall apply for an injunction restraining the operation of the vessel until the corrections have been made and approved by the inspector.

- (b) The suit shall be brought in the district court in the county in which the vessel is located by either the attorney general or the district attorney of that county.
- (c) The state shall not be required to verify pleadings or execute a bond in an injunction suit.

(d) The affidavit of the commissioner, the director or any deputy director that the vessel's operation constitutes a menace to the safety of any person near the installation shall be prima facie evidence of danger warranting the granting of a temporary restraining order.

Sec. 19. INSPECTION REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES OF OPERATION.

(a) Every insurance company licensed to insure pressure vessels in this state shall file a report of each certificate inspection with the director upon forms promulgated by the national board within 30 days of the inspection. If the pressure vessel complies with the board's rules and regulations, the insured shall pay a fee of \$3 to the director.

- (b) The director shall issue to the insured a certificate of operation bearing the date of inspection and specifying the maximum allowable working pressure under which the pressure vessel may be operated. Certificates shall be posted in the room containing the pressure vessel, or in a location convenient to the pressure vessel, or shall be filed in a place where they will be accessible.
- authorized inspector on which the insurance company has issued a policy of insurance after inspection shall be exempt from inspections and inspection fees other than as provided in Subsection (a) of this section until the end of the next inspection interval. The director may authorize the inspection of any insured pressure vessel at a reasonable time believing the insured pressure vessel to be in unsafe condition. The director shall contact the

insured and the authorized inspector. The director or deputy inspector and the insured and the authorized inspector shall jointly inspect the pressure vessel within 20 days after notice by the director. No additional charge shall be made for this joint inspection.

- (d) Every insurance company shall notify the director in writing of the cancellation or expiration of a policy of insurance issued by it on a pressure vessel in this state within 60 days of the expiration or cancellation of the policy, giving the reason for the cancellation or expiration.
- (e) If upon the inspection of a new risk, an authorized inspector finds that the pressure vessel or any of the ASME code-required safety devices are in such condition that his company refuses insurance, the company shall immediately notify the director and submit a report of the defects.

Sec. 20. OWNER-USER INSPECTION SERVICE REPORTS AND RECORDS.

(a) Each company operating pressure vessels covered by its owner-user inspection service shall maintain in its files an inspection record which lists, by number and an abbreviated description necessary for identification, each pressure vessel covered by this Act, the date of the last inspection of each pressure vessel and the approximate date for the next inspection. The inspection records shall be available for examination by the director or his authorized representative during business hours.

supervision over the inspections made during the year, stating

the number of vessels at each location covered by this Act inspected during the year, and certifying that each inspection was conducted pursuant to the inspection requirements provided for by this Act.

- (c) The annual statement shall be accompanied by a filing fee in accordance with the following schedule:
 - (1) statements covering 1 to 25 vessels s 3 each
 - (2) statements covering 26 to 100 vessels s 75 each
 - (3) statements covering 101 to 500 vessels \$150 each
 - (4) statements covering more than 500 vessels \$300 each
- (d) All pressure vessels scrapped, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of shall be listed by number and an abbreviated description necessary for identification in the next annual report to the director.
- Sec. 21. INSPECTION FEES. (a) The following inspection fees shall be charged for certificate inspections performed by deputy inspectors. Fees are to be based on the maximum length of the vessel times the maximum width or diameter, to wit:
 - (1) 30 sq. ft. or less s 8
 - (2) over 30 sq. ft. but less than 60 sq. ft. s 12
 - (3) 60 sg. ft. but less than 100 sg. ft. s 15
 - (4) 100 sq. ft. or over s 20
- (b) The fee for a special inspection shall be \$100 a day plus necessary travel expenses.
- Sec. 22. CREATION OF THE STATE PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTION FUND. The fees collected pursuant to this Act shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the State Pressure Vessel

64R759 JMC-F

Inspection Fund to be used by the Pressure Vessel Division in the administration of this Act.

Sec. 23. AFFIDAVIT OF COMMISSIONER. An affidavit under the seal of the commissioner executed by the commissioner, the director or any deputy inspector, setting forth the terms of any order of the commissioner, when it was adopted, promulgated, and published, and that it was in effect during any period specified shall be prima facie evidence of all facts in the affidavit, and shall be admitted in evidence in any action, civil or criminal, involving the order.

Sec. 24. PENALTY. (a) Any person, firm, corporation, who violates the provisions of this Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200, or by confinement in the county jail for not more than 60 days, or by both.

(b) Any person in control of a place where a pressure vessel subject to inspection under this Act is located, who prevents or deters an authorized employee of the Pressure Vessel Division from carrying out the provisions of this Act, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$100, or by confinement in the county jail for not more than 60 days, or by both.

Sec. 25. PERIOD FOR INITIAL RECORDING. After the effective date of this Act, the board shall allow all owners or users 12 months in which to initially record all pressure vessels with the board.

Sec. 26. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation

64R759 JMC-F

and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE

February 18, 1975

Honorable William T. "Bill" Moore, Chairman Senate State Affairs Committee Senate Chamber Austin, Texas

In Re: Senate Bill No. 268

By: Brooks

Sir:

In response to your request and pursuant to Senate Rule 94, Subsection (g), this office finds the fiscal implications of Senate Bill No. 268 (relating to the creation of a Pressure Vessel Division in the Texas Department of Labor and Standards) to be as follows:

The probable revenues of implementing the provisions of the bill during each of the first five years following passage are estimated as follows:

Fiscal	
<u>Year</u>	
1074	
1976	\$ 262,500
1977	1,312,500
1978	2,625,000
1979	3,937,500
1980	5,250,000
	- ,,

The probable cost of implementing the provisions of the bill during each of the first five years following passage is estimated as follows:

Fiscal <u>Year</u>	
1976	\$ 516,966
1977	545,944
1978	545,944
1979	545,944
1980	545,944

Similar fiscal results will continue as long as the provisions of the bill are in effect.

Thomas M. Keel

Director

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